THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that while as on 31st March, 1992 there were 140 branches of foreign banks in India, the number as on 1st April, 1995 was 153.

(b) Owing to geographical spread, branch network, customer profile, level of computerisation being different, public sector banks and foreign banks are not comparable.

(c) RBI has reported that in the documents containing performance obligations and commitments for 1993-94 and 1994-95 submitted to RBI by the nationalised banks in connection with release of additional capital, banks have been asked to prepare action plans on the following key areas:—

1. Improvement in organisational set up.

2. Improving the productivity levels including mechanisation in key/selective areas and containment of staff.

3. Human resources development.

4. Improving house keeping and internal control.

5. Strengthening vigilance machinery and deterrent action against erring officials.

6. Profit planning and improvement in profit levels.

Uttarbanga Khetriya Gramin Bank

2301. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Management of Uttarbanga Khetriya Gramin Bank has cancelled the panel of auditors sent by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development;

(b) whether it is within the authority of the Rural Bank, if not, what action has been taken against the chairman of U.K.G.B; and

(c) by when this Chairman is going to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had sent to the Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank (UKGB) a panel comprising the names of three audit firms. UKGB was advised to appoint the statutory auditors for the year 1993-94 from the panel in the order of preference indicated in the letter.

UKGB was not satisfied with the audit conducted by the firm at Serial No. 1 in the panel for the year 1992-93. Further the Board of Directors of UKGB interpreted the order of preferences given by NABARD, as recommendatory and appointed the audit firm at Serials No. 3 in the panel as statutory auditors for the year 1993-94. NABARD has informed Central Bank of India (CBI), which is the sponsor bank and UKGB that the appointment so made by UKGB was not in order. However, as the issue has arisen on account of a difference of interpretation, NABARD has not suggested any action against the Chairman of UKGB. However, CBI has decided to replace the concerned Chairman of UKGB. NABARD has approved the selection of the replacement.

Delay in declaring result of Air Hostess examination

2302. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2039 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 1995 and state:

(a) the nature of proposed changes in the qualification for selection of Air Hostesses/Assistant Flight Pursers;

(b) the reasons for changing the qualifications for selection even after the conduct of written examination and personal interviews;